

Prof Lenard, Berlin  
1900 (Kiel)

p 225 - 267, 1894) of which I have no more copies.

I wished particularly to mention, that I had to acknowledge the priority of Mr H. Thomson and Mr Wien in one of the papers (Wied. Ann. 64, 1898), i.e. in the discovery, that Kathode-rays are streams of Electricity without ordinary Matter.

Now, as I have written all this for yourself only, dear Professor Thompson, you will certainly allow me to ask you, not to make any use of this letter, resembling a claim, made by myself, to any distinction of my work. In case it should be necessary, to put forward personal claims of the Authors, please take this letter as cancelled and not written.

I am so late with my answer partly because your letter came to me in detour, via Heidelberg.

Were it ever possible, to welcome you here in Kiel, I should be very much enjoyed indeed. Yours very truly P. Lenard.

Kiel, Oct 30, 1900

Dear Professor Thompson,

you have given great honour, by the intention explained in your letter, to my work of the past year. In following your invitation I have, however, felt much hesitation, as I wish never to exert any influence on people's estimation of my work. But you are certainly right in this, that the Author should know best himself what he has found; and seeing already manifest your intention, I think I may give you the following particulars, which, perhaps, might as well serve to convert you some other way.

In my paper from Oct 19 1899 (Vienna Academy) I think to have



shown, that light produces, from conductors on which it falls, Electricity free from ordinary Matter, Electricity in the same new state in which it has <sup>previously</sup> ~~hitherto~~ only been found in Kathode-rays. My experiments show, for the first time, that and how it is possible to obtain an electric discharge in the perfect Vacuum. Electricity is thus, it seems to me, clearly demonstrated to be something capable of existence per se, without Matter, in free Ether; and this, being not included in Maxwell's general theory, seems to me to be of some importance for further development of our ideas on Electricity.

The streams of pure Electricity (Kathode-rays) obtainable by light under certain circumstances, are new objects (and also means)

of investigation, inasmuch as they travel far slower than ordinary Kathode-rays.

Finally I believe to have shown, that the phenomena, discovered by Hertz and studied by others, occurring when light falls on negatively charged bodies in air, are explainable from the fact, that light generates Kathode-rays and from ~~the~~ properties of these rays first stated in my previous papers on them.

As to the copies of the papers, I send them by book post, and I have joined to the one in question all those former ones, the contents of which have been used, and therefore quoted, in the first mentioned paper. There is, however, missing one paper (On Kathode-rays in free air etc, Wied. Ann. 57



Hildberg, 3. Mai 30.

Sehr geehrter Herr!

Hochachtungsvoll Dank für die freundlichen Mittheilungen.  
Es wird mich sehr freuen, Sie in der Vorlesung  
zu sehen. Vielleicht am Dienstag 6. Mai (Farben-  
lehre). Hoffentlich hoffen wir uns dann auch  
nach der Vorlesung bei mir, wenn es Ihnen  
möglich ist. Auch zu jeder anderen Zeit würde  
ein Zusammenkommen sehr angenehm sein.

Allen ergeben

P. Levan.



*Postbank*



FERNSPRECHER  
== SPART ==  
ZEIT UND GELD



*Georg Josef Wenzel Kurt*

*C. J. Dörner*

*J. - Hantel*

*26. März 1900*



1 **LENARD** (Philipp Eduard Anton, *prof. physics, Kiel*, 1862-1947) A.L.S. (P. LENARD), Kiel, Oct. 30, 1900, to 'Dear Professor [Silvanus P.] Thompson,' 4 closely written pages 8vo., £6 6s

Containing a statement of his discoveries. . . . 'My experiments show, for the first time, that and how it is possible to obtain an electric discharge in a perfect Vacuum. Electricity is thus, it seems to me, clearly demonstrated to be something capable of existence per se, without Matter, in free Ether ; and this, being not included in Maxwell's general theory, seems to me to be of some importance for further development of our ideas on Electricity. . . . Finally I believe to have shown, that the phenomina, discovered by Hertz and studied by others, occurring when Light falls on negatively charged bodies in air, are explainable from the fact, that Light generates Kathode-rays and from properties of these rays first stated in my previous papers on them. . . . Now, as I have written all this for yourself only, dear Professor Thompson, you will certainly allow me to ask you, not to make any use of this letter, resembling a claim made by myself to any distinction of my work.' . . . See also Sir W. Crookes's letter (No. 5648). **LONDON, SOTHERAN** 52



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